



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Council takes first step for marijuana

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At Monday's regular meeting of the Belleville City Council via Zoom, Clerk/Treasurer Verna Chapman presented the list of the 28 applications received for marijuana establishments received by the Jan. 1 deadline.

Under the ordinance passed by voters, Clerk Chapman said she is obligated to issue provisional licenses for marijuana establishments. Under the ordinance [available for study on the city's web site], Chapman has 30 days from the Jan. 1 deadline to award seven provisional licenses.

At the Feb. 1 meeting, she said of the 28 applications, one was postmarked late, four were out of the zoned district, and one did not designate a location, so that left 22 applications.

Chapman said 18 applications were from Portage Acquisitions, Inc. and all of those were located at 290 Industrial Park Dr. and 299 Industrial Park Dr., Suites A and D. All of those scored from 93 to 98.

J Leaf LLC applied for four Microbusiness locations at 303, 307, 313, and 317 Industrial Park Dr. Those applications were all scored 65.

Chapman said the applications were scored as required by the ordinance.

PSFB, LLC applying for a location at 510 Savage Rd. for Retailer, Class C Cultivation, Processing, and DCL was not scored.

Also, The Pure Lapeer, LLC, which applied for Retailer and Provisioning Center licenses at no address, was not scored.

She said they did not have more applications than licenses available.

(continued on page 11)



Independent photo by James Otzman

Slivers of ice curled over the edge of the library Media Center roof in Sumpter Township at about 7:30 a.m., Jan. 28. The metal roof caused the ice to slip down this way.

VBT Trustees close offices until March 31 on 6-1 vote

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Hall will be closed to the public, who will be allowed in by appointment only until March 31, following a 6-1 vote at the township board's regular meeting on Jan. 19 via Zoom.

The agenda item was introduced by Trustee Kevin Martin who said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," referring to the coronavirus.

The only one voting no was Supervisor Kevin McNamara who said, "I'm against

this. I didn't even want to go on split shifts. It just didn't work very well the first time around. I believe the government should be open."

Supervisor McNamara said that a little old lady comes to the door and wants to know why she can't go to the treasurer's office to pay her taxes. He said many people are not internet-savvy and don't call on the phones.

"Meijer's is open. Walmart is open. Zero new cases yesterday. It's amazing. We're coming out of the problem," he said.

Trustee Reggie Miller said she thinks the board should protect the people.

"They want to pay a bill? Drop it in the box," she said. "They can make appointments ... The numbers are going down, yes ... We need to be proactive. We

can do it pretty easily."

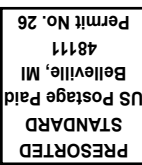
"No, no," said McNamara to the "easily" comment. "Who's going to stand at the front door?"

Miller replied that Nicole Sumpter, Human Resources Director, said they could get someone for the door. Miller said Director Sumpter had been called away on an emergency and wasn't present at the meeting.

McNamara said in Belleville and Canton he hears people are screaming they can't get into the offices. The residents want to know why the township can't open the door and let a little old lady go to the treasurer's office, he said.

Clerk Leon Wright said 262 people came into township hall to go to the treasurer's

(continued on page 15)



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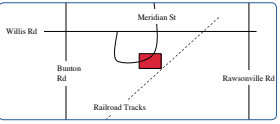
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Deputy Supervisor Ken Bednark rejects Sumpter board's offer

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township Deputy Supervisor Ken Bednark told the *Independent* he has rejected the offer made by the township board at its Jan. 26 meeting because it falls far short of what is owed.



Bednark

Deputy Bednark said he has advised the township that on Feb. 10 he will tender his resignation letter and he will sign it as of the settlement. He has ceased to perform daily activities at the township.

When Bednark was sworn in as deputy in November, Supervisor Tim Bowman requested the same pay for him as previous deputy Karen Armatis was paid, \$31.44 per hour, because the Michigan Township Association told him that was proper. He also got medical coverage as she did.

All township meetings were canceled through the end of the year because of the coronavirus and state regulations.

But, at a special township board meeting on Dec. 15, the board voted 5-2 (with Trustee Morgan and Supervisor Bowman voting no) to reduce Bednark's pay to \$8,406 per year (\$8.08 per hour), cut his full-time status to half time (20 hours) and take away all benefits.

The township then started deducting what it had originally paid him from his paycheck, which left him with no paycheck at all.

Newly elected Trustee Peggy Morgan brought the problem to the board at its Jan. 12 meeting and the board voted unanimously to have attorney Rob Young look into the situation.

At its Jan. 26 meeting, Young reported that the original payments to Bednark were not illegal. They discussed statutory and nonstatutory duties. Young asked Bowman what did he intend for his deputy and Bowman said, "When I set Kenny's pay it was for nothing more than normal, statutory duties... I knew no more."

Trustees Morgan and Tim Rush pushed for an immediate resolution to the problem instead of having it drag on to another meeting. Trustee Matt Oddy made a motion, that the board voted unanimously to approve, to pay Bednark \$31.44 per hour in wages from Nov. 20 through Dec. 15, plus \$500 to satisfy other pay issues.

Also during the Jan. 26 meeting, Trustee Morgan drew the board's attention to payments on that night's list of warrants being approved for Karen Armatis' medical and dental insurance through February. Armatis has been gone since Nov. 20,

Trustee Morgan said. The payments were \$903.48 per month for medical for December, January, and February, plus her Delta Dental at \$119.73.

Bednark told the *Independent* that he had told attorney Young that the board already has the letter he sent detailing what he wants and that still holds.

At 4:30 p.m. Feb. 1, a special virtual board meeting was posted for 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 2, with one item on the agenda: A closed-door session "pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e) and (h) to consider attorney-client privileged material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal law and to review pending litigation with the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Division."

[The *Independent* will report next week on what public information is announced at that meeting.]

In other business at the Jan. 26 meeting the board:

- Approved warrants totaling \$513,807.36, with questions on the Armatis medical payments. Trustee Tim Rush asked Clerk Esther Hurst to check that out with Human Resources Director Michelle Bellingham and report back to the full board;

- Removed from the agenda again, without comment, the termination request of Daniel Frost as fire fighter;

- Tabled for two weeks a vote on the approval of Eric Partridge to the planning commission with a term to expire Jan. 11, 2024. Supervisor Bowman appointed Partridge and said he would make a fine member of the planning commission, but Trustee Oddy wanted the board to reappoint Bart Patterson, whom he prefers. Oddy suggested expanding the planning commission to nine members from the current seven so both Partridge and Patterson could be seated. Oddy wanted Patterson reappointed first, with Partridge waiting to see if the commission is expanded. Patterson was appointed on Aug. 11 by Supervisor John Morgan to fill an unexpired term through Jan. 12, after Virginia Belinski resigned. Patterson attended the Aug. 13 meeting and no more have been held since then. Oddy, who is liaison to the planning commission, did not attend the Aug. 13 meeting;

- Approved the supervisor's appointment of Sherry Olds to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate with a term to expire Jan. 13, 2024, on a 4-2 vote, with Trustees Rush and Oddy voting no;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Karen Woodington as alternate to the Board of Review with a term starting Jan. 1, 2021 and expiring Jan. 1, 2024;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Katrina Guisgand to the Board of

Review to expire Jan. 1, 2024;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Kathie Steigerwald to the ZBA with a term to expire Dec. 17, 2023;

- Approved the updated virtual meeting protocol as of Jan. 21, as presented by Trustee Rush;

- Approved having the treasurer's office establish an escrow account supporting the township's 2009 participation in the DIFS Fire Insurance Withholding Program and Resolution 2021-05;

- Approved the cooperative agreement for the federal Community Development Block Grant program;

- Heard Trustee Morgan make a motion to immediately change from a part-time to full-time position for the treasurer's clerk Erica Campbell, consistent with the union bargaining agreement for AFSCME Local 1882.14. There was no support so the motion died. The agenda item was placed by Treasurer James Clark and he said he needed Campbell full time, but he did not support the motion or explain why;

- Approved asking the attorney to draft a new version of the existing contract for Eric Luke as public safety director, since the current one expires in March;

- Approved reopening the township recycling center on Feb. 6, dependant on Governor's executive orders and/or MDHHS directives, as scheduled by the clerk's office. Clerk Hurst said she would like to open township hall and the senior center when they can do so safely with whatever standards are set for the number of people allowed, and the board added that to the motion and approved it;

- Heard Supervisor Bowman say he came to township hall at 3:30 p.m. earlier that day before the 6 p.m. meeting to get an updated agenda packet and the agenda the clerk's office gave him, and what he tried to run the meeting from, was not the latest agenda;

- Heard Rush report on the recent Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He said the commission starts planning for Sumpter Fest in December and all events are on the back burner. The only thing planned for this year is the turkey shoot in October. "Everything else is off the table," he said;

- Heard Oddy ask to set up Zoom meetings for the planning commission and Board of Zoning Appeals so they don't have to be postponed and people can continue their projects. He asked the board to direct the financial director to contact members on



Bowman

what help they need to be on Zoom and provide laptops or have them use their phones. Clerk Hurst said there are seven to nine members of the planning commission and there are BZA members – too many to provide laptops. Hurst said she will ask Michelle Cole to explore the capabilities of each commission;

- Learned Supervisor Bowman has yet to appoint board liaisons for the township departments;

- Heard Trustee Morgan say the township is still working on transferring the financial account administration name at the credit union from John Morgan and Karen Armatis. Those names have been on it since John Morgan was treasurer and Armatis his deputy. "When somebody leaves office, it needs to be changed," Trustee Morgan said, adding that Supervisor Morgan and Deputy Armatis have been gone since November and it's almost February. Ken Bednark said when he was treasurer he attempted to talk to Supervisor Morgan and Armatis but they were uncooperative and refused to discuss it. He said Public Service Credit Union said unless those names were removed the township treasurer had no way to get them in their names. Bednark said when Bowman and he came into the township after being sworn in, the transfer of power was "just keys thrown on the table." He said with the two of them out of office, the problem has escalated and no longer is minor. Reportedly, Financial Director Cole is working to solve the problem;

- Heard Supervisor Bowman thank the people of Sumpter Township who supported him when he had a loss in the family. "I appreciated that," he said; and

- Heard Trustees Oddy, Rush, and Morgan compliment Bowman for doing a good job at chairing what was only his second meeting.

Sumpter Township distributing limited number of face masks

Sumpter Township is in receipt of a limited supply of masks from Wayne County. The township board is distributing the masks to township residents.

The masks come in packages of five. Due to the limited quantities, the residents are asked to limit themselves to one package per household.

The masks are available daily at each of the township hall entrances and at the Sumpter Community Center main entrance doors from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Letters

Give your NO answer to VB School Board

To the editor:

HATS OFF, and my utmost gratitude to our gallant and community-minded Van Buren School Board members who are asking for comments from all residents of our school district regarding marijuana outlets and "dealers" being permitted to buy school-owned (and taxpayer, resident-owned) land on Sumpter Road for the purpose of "drugging" our community.

I am deeply saddened to read the names of those whose ONLY focus is of a huge profit in the sale of the property -- school revenue -- at the same time turning a blind eye to the devastating, life-changing drug habit known as marijuana.

It is proven to be mind-altering; just the beginning (an OPEN pathway) to far more poisonous, life-threatening drugs!

Yes, we MUST comment; we must honestly, thoughtfully and deeply consider the deadly consequences of the drug on our society, most importantly our youth. Drugs, such as marijuana when bought and sold as "medicinal" and introduced into the home by a parent is euphoric and mind-altering -- a clear pathway to harder, deadlier drugs.

Then, too, consider how our community will drastically change if and when we allow it to become an atmosphere that will traffic a most UNdesirable population into our present law-abiding, beautiful, and law-abiding community. If we vote to allow this "business" in our community, the UNdesirables will surely invade us!

Consider how we will be forced to pay higher school taxes if and when marijuana becomes a common drug. There will be a need to hire more teachers and counselors to "handle" this introduction of drugs.

I have no doubt that if our school board and community agrees to sell said property on Sumpter to any "drug-minded" person or organization, there will also be allowed in our schools free-flowing marijuana vending machines. Do you recall hearing about vending machines selling condoms within schools?

It would be interesting to "poll" our Van Buren teachers and school administrators -- what is your opinion? What does your union (NEA/MEA) think? (The unions who dictate whether or not our teachers will or will not teach in an open, personal classroom atmosphere.)

Considering our present unfortunate (Covid-19) pandemic, this generation of students is being forced to remain home, learning outside the classroom and away from their schoolmates and activities. Bored, some suicidal tendencies, and given to conditions which will positively invite euphoric drugs such as marijuana. Then, off they go to heavier, more habit-forming, deadly drugs.

Parents: Is this the education pathway and lifestyle you prefer for your children?

Teachers and Administrators: Is this

your preferred atmosphere to educate our students?

I am thankful for the wise decision of the board members to open a welcome door to our residents, asking for comments. I am glad a majority of our school board members see the wisdom of looking beyond profit from a drug to the very life, liberty and drug-free lifestyle of our children and students.

They did NOT initiate an easy way out, ("cop-out") by passing a decision-making judgment on to marijuana profiteers who envision and worship the dollar -- NOT our children's lives and well-being.

How can anyone in their right mind willingly and knowing send their children to a school that would allow a "pathway" drug to be sold and purchased within our school district?

Parents: Please join with me -- get involved before it is too late; send your comment (either "yes" or a definitive NO) to the Van Buren Board of Education and/or this newspaper.

Your children, our students, our community, and you, yourself, will be forever thankful when you say NO to selling OUR taxpayer/school-owned land to drugs (marijuana). Note to ALL PARENTS living in the tri-county area of Belleville, Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township: Don't wait any longer! Take the time now to voice your opposition to the sale of our (taxpayers') school property for use as a "drug store." Phone or go online: VBPS -Supt Kudlak at (734) 697-9123, www.vanburenschools.net -- or -- write to either Supt. Kudlak at 555 West Columbia Ave., Belleville, 48111 -- or to: Rosemary Otzman, Editor, Independent newspaper.

GOD BLESS AMERICA.
(Mrs.) Ruth E. Bleeker
Belleville

Rec center: Either give refund or vote on it

To the editor:

This is in response to the story from the *Independent* on Jan 28, "VBT moves forward on plans for new rec center."

It was reported that there was zero community opposition to spending \$7.25 million VBT taxpayer dollars for the new rec center. We may be the only VBT residents who were not called for our opinion during the March, 2019 feasibility study.

I have a different plan for the \$7.25 million, which is obviously burning a hole in the pockets of McNamara, Wright, and crew. Let's take the \$7.25 million and divide it among the approximately 12,000 households in VBT. We'll take it in the form of a \$600 check or just reduce our property taxes by that amount in 2021.

We don't need VBT to get into the gym/fitness business. Let's leave that to the private sector gyms and fitness centers, which have suffered enough this last year due to shutdowns. At the very least, this proposal and expenditure should be put on the ballot for residential approval.

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More Letters

People wonder why our children are depressed

To the editor:

In regards to the controversial book at BHS, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings."

I was never given advanced notice of this book not to mention the rape scene. It was more than just a rape scene.

This book vividly describes, in detail, an 8-year-old girl that is first molested and then raped. If this book were a movie it would be rated "R" and a 15-year-old would not be permitted into the theater much less be shown in school.

These chapters (11-13) are disgusting. Reading it made me sick to my stomach. The school board and those that approved this should be ashamed of themselves.

This is not the first time I have had issue with the reading material.

Ninth graders are required to read "Speak." It is about an incoming freshman girl that is raped, enters into deep depression, cuts herself, and contemplates suicide. Then "Romeo and Juliet"... teenagers that kill themselves because they cannot get their way. And, "To Kill a Mocking Bird." Rape, incest, and racism.

Then people wonder why our children are depressed. Is our school board unable to find happy books for our children to read?

Joe Flange
Van Buren Township

"There is a cult of ignorance in the United States, and there has always been. The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.'"

— Isaac Asimov

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Service Charge	\$4,890.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
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Same Day Service	\$5,885.00

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Obituaries



Jayne Ellen Atchinson

JAYNE ELLEN ATCHINSON

(June 19, 1944 – January 23, 2021)

Jayne Ellen Atchinson, age 76, of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, January 23, 2021 in Henderson, NV. She was born June 19, 1944 in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, daughter of Lorne Burton & Daisy Ellen (Allen) Thomas. She graduated Baldwin high school, class of 1962. She went to Davenport College in Grand Rapids, MI and earned her Associates degree in Business Administration.

She married Kurt Atchinson on June 20, 1964. She enjoyed working alongside her husband and sons as a dealer for Atchinson Ford, Belleville, MI. Jayne was a long-time active member of St. Anthony Catholic Church, Belleville, where she enjoyed being a council member. She also enjoyed time working with Belleville Chamber of Commerce. She loved her time spent volunteering for Mended Hearts, through the American Heart Association. Jayne was an avid golfer, bowler and loved playing cards.

Mrs. Atchinson is survived by her devoted husband of 56 years Kurt Lee Atchinson; son Craig (Medina) Atchinson of Belleville, MI; grandson Travis Atchinson; granddaughters Ava and Ella Atchinson; three brothers: Ronald (Carol) Thomas of Cedar Springs, MI, Ralph Thomas of St. Mary's, Georgia and Victor (Karen) Thomas of Grand Rapids, MI; sister Mary Rayman of Romeo, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, son Todd Thomas Atchinson, also a brother Terry Thomas.

Visitation, Funeral Mass and Interment are being planned and will be announced soon. Memorial contributions may be made to Mended Hearts at <https://mendedhearts.org/#donate> and would be appreciated.

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Anita C. Knox

ANITA C. KNOX

(October 21, 1955 – January 19, 2021)

Passed away. Peacefully surrounded by loved ones at her daughter's home in Van Buren Township. She is survived by her daughter Dorothy (Jeanie) Knox and son Shawn Knox; 4 grandsons and several nieces and nephews and her 2 fur babies Smokey and Hailey. Preceded in death by her Irish Twin Susan K. (Knox) Cappelli, brother Jimmy Knox, mother and father Clara and Charles Knox.

Anita was cremated and there will be a small service held at Belleville Faith Assembly by Pastor Doug Valentine at a later date.



Annamarie Cardinal

ANNAMARIE CARDINAL

(July 2, 1963 – January 30, 2021)

Annamarie Cardinal, age 57, of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, January 30, 2021 at Beaumont Hospital of Royal Oak. She was born July 2, 1963. She was born and raised in Belleville, and graduated from Belleville High School in 1981. Annamarie was loved by all who knew her; her laugh was infectious. She liked to listen to music, live bands or otherwise. She was well-respected and well-liked at "Quicken Loans," her last place of employment. She was a great mother, sister, and friend to many, who will miss her terribly, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She is survived by her only son, Dakota Austin John Cardinal of Michigan; four brothers, Richard Lee Cardinal Jr. of Massachusetts, James Edward Cardinal, of Alabama, John Phillip Cardinal, of Massachusetts, and Curtiss Dean Cardinal, of Tennessee. Also survived by one sister, Cristy Cardinal of Michigan.

She was preceded in death by her father, Richard Lee Cardinal, Sr., her mother Nellie Sue Cardinal, and three brothers, Gary Stephen Cardinal, Darren Lewis Cardinal, and David Allen Cardinal.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a memorial service for Annamarie will be scheduled at a later date this summer.



Paulina Schaiy

PAULINA SCHAIY

(November 16, 1966 – January 25, 2021)

Paulina Schaiy, age 54, of Tecumseh, MI, formerly of Los Angeles, California, passed away Monday, January 25, 2021 at University Hospitals, Ann Arbor, MI, after a long battle with cancer. She was born Paula Marie Talicska on November 16, 1966, daughter of Frances Kay Verbowski. She graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1984. She enjoyed being a real estate agent for many years. Paulina loved the outdoors: gardening, snow skiing, and water skiing on Belleville Lake.

She is survived by two grandchildren: Makayla and Madison; mother Fran (Al) Bittner of Lake Havasu, Arizona; twin siblings: Sharon (Rick) Walters of Byron Center, MI and Jim (Tamara) Talicska of Pinconning, MI; sister Marcie Talicska of Traverse City, MI and brother Robert (Jennifer) Talicska of Tecumseh, MI, numerous extended family and friends. Paulina was preceded in death by her father John Talicska, also her daughter Katherine Verbowski in 2017. Due to Covid-19, private arrangements have been made with David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society and would be appreciated.

Obituaries



Gary W. Buhro

GARY W. BUHRO

(January 29, 1951 – January 31, 2021)

Gary W. Buhro, Sr., age 70, of Iron River, MI, passed away on Saturday, January 31, 2021. He was born on January 29, 1951 in Detroit, MI, the son of the late Frank W. and Elinor (Birch) Buhro.

He attended the Detroit Schools, graduating from Cody High School. Gary married Deborah Carley on September 3, 1970 in Detroit, MI. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2020.

He was employed as a technician for Michigan Bell and Ameritech for 45 years. Gary enjoyed hunting, bowling, fishing, and golfing. He was a huge supporter of his children in their sporting endeavors and was always at their games and meets. Deborah and Gary were the "Team Mom and Dad."

Gary is survived by his wife, Deborah Buhro of Iron River, MI; daughter Chris (Christopher) Urda of Georgia; son Gary W. Buhro, Jr. of Westland, MI; daughter, Brenda Buhro of Westland, MI; his beloved pets Bo and Hope; grandchildren, Dalton (Drew) and Julia Urda; siblings Patty (Joe) Radtka, Ray Buhro, Cathy (Mark) Chidester, Debbie (Dale) Stupyra, Denise (Pat) Wilkerson, Ronnie (Gale) Buhro, Donnie (Grace) Buhro, Frank (Chuck) Buhro, James Buhro, George (Stacey) Buhro, Michelle (Dawn) Smith, and Ellie (Brian) Rupnow; the Birch and Mitchell families; many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was also preceded in death by his granddaughter, Zeria Jones.

Private services will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Gary Buhro, Sr. online at www.jacobsfuneralhomeir.com

Funeral arrangements by the Jacobs Funeral Home of Iron River.

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Keller's Farm Bakery at 23888 Haggerty Rd. between Judd and Wear roads is taking orders now for Paczki this Paczki Day coming up on Feb. 16 with traditional flavors such as strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, lemon, apple, and custard. They are \$14 per dozen and can come with either glaze or powdered sugar topping. Orders can be placed by calling (734) 753-4360 and can be picked up on Monday, Feb. 15, from noon until 8 p.m. and Fat Tuesday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The family-owned business has been baking European recipes since 1954. Visit

them on Facebook and check out their ad in today's paper.

The 2021 BHS Senior Class will be holding a Dine to Donate fundraiser on Thursday, Feb. 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. at Panera Bread on Michigan Avenue, just west of Belleville Road in Canton. Anyone can dine in or carry out and their flyer is available on their Facebook page at Tiger Parents BHS Class of 2021.

Zorro Apps of Belleville offers free-speech servers and non-censoring website development and design for all your business and server needs. Call (734) 325-5800 and visit www.zorroapps.com.

The Belleville Area District Library will be holding its second of two scheduled virtual Open Mic Nights this Sunday, from 7 until 8 p.m. Participants who wish to take part can recite a poem, play an instrument, show off an interesting talent or a keepsake item and can do so via the library's Zoom link. All performances must be appropriate for family audiences. Visit the library's website to register and get a link at www.belleville.lib.mi.us.com. Virtual Storytime for adults and children is also happening this month. See the library's schedule online for info.

More Letters

We didn't get face mask

To the editor:

Did anyone with a post office box (that is attached to their home address) receive a face mask from Van Buren Township? I am curious because we have received all other mailings from the township in our P.O. Box for more than a decade.

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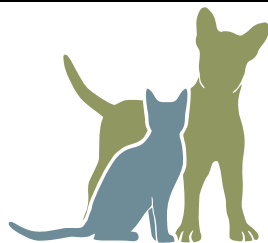
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Recreation Committee seeking input on design of community center

Van Buren Township is seeking input on designing a new community center at the township hall, 46425 Tyler Rd.

"Last year we sent residents a feasibility study," said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "The study showed that 76% of the residents wanted some type of community center that could include an indoor track and bigger workout facilities."

"Nothing is set in stone. We're looking for everyone's feedback on what they want this community center to include and asking the public to take part in designing a center that they can enjoy for years to come."

To review the Community Center Study

February 4, 2021
Belleville Area Independent

and report visit: <https://vanburen-mi.org/community-center-study-seeking-input/>.

Residents who would like to submit input and feedback can do so in four different ways:

1. Join the Facebook event at <https://fb.me/e/1WTGFq8Ms> and post comments, upload photos and/or videos of what you would like to the community center to include.

2. Email comments, photos and video to communications@vanburen-mi.org.

3. Attend Recreation Committee meetings, which are held virtually, via Zoom due to COVID-19, until further notice. Recreation Committee meetings are open to the public and held bi-monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. The next Recreation Committee meeting will be Tuesday, Feb. 9.

a. To join the virtual meeting or view the agenda of upcoming meetings visit: <https://vanburen-mi.org/meetings-agendas-and-minutes/recreation-committee/>. The Committee may meet more regularly in consideration of this community project.

4. Watch the meetings live on YouTube and submit your feedback in the comments section: <https://www.youtube.com/mivanburentwp>

"This project is an opportunity to bring what residents want in a community center into reality," said Public Services Director Matt Best. "That is why we are hosting engagement workshops during the Rec Committee meetings and seeking input via social media."

To stay up to date on news and information regarding this project, follow Van Buren Charter Township on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @MiVanBurenTwp. Or follow the VBT Parks & Rec Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/vanburenparcsandrecreation>

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Marijuana

(continued from page 1)

Interim City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, attending her last meeting in that position, said since this is a relatively new procedure, they need more information before proceeding.

She said they want another conversation with the city attorney the next day and would get back to the council with the information.

Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte asked if 21 were actually approved, as stated on the printout that was part of the council packet. Interim City Manager Kobylarz said that actually should be 22.

Marcotte said the five retailer licenses listed at the bottom of printout were more than the four allowed under the ordinance. And, the four microbusinesses listed are more than the minimum of two allowed under the ordinance.

Councilman Ken Voigt said he is not in favor of issuing more licenses than permitted.

"I think the ordinance calls for 23 different types of licenses," Councilman Voigt said. "That's excessive for a city our size."

"We would like to review the information with our attorney and get with you tomorrow," Kobylarz said.

"We knew we had to follow the ordinance to a T," said Mayor Kerreen Conley.

Voigt said it was a Herculean effort to comply with this ordinance and, "I do not want to issue more licenses than called for."

Kobylarz said Clerk Chapman had to read every page of the applications and fly-spec each one. She said everything was scored by what the ordinance required, what the city wants, and what Chapman was required to do.

"If we did nothing today we would have lost a great deal of revenue," Kobylarz said. "I've put in at least 40 hours on this while I was on vacation."

Marcotte said he agreed with Voigt's comments.

He said as to the school's Vo-Tech property that may be put back on the market, it is important for the city and the school district to talk to one another. They have to realize the business can't open any time. They have to apply annually. He said it's imperative that the city and school talk to educate the people.

Kobylarz said she talked with School Supt. Pete Kudlak and affirmed that the building was in the overlay district.

She said the potential buyer called and was reminded of the annual licensing and he said maybe he would just buy it and wait until the next open session to apply.

Kobylarz said this is "not Joe Schmo who wants to open a head shop" but an experienced, professional businessman.

Marcotte said the school property is in question when the early childhood development center opens.

Councilman Tom Fielder said when he read the news report of the school board meeting, there was a statement about the city council approving the ordinance. He said the city did not approve it. It was an outside group that brought the ordinance. The school board member misspoke, he said. There is a lack of understanding of the situation, Fielder said.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger asked if there was a grandfather clause that the property would remain in the overlay district after the early childhood development center is open.

"If the early childhood center is complete when they apply?" Voigt asked.

Kobylarz said if it is an actual school and not a daycare center it would make a difference. Daycare centers are not considered schools under state law, Kobylarz has advised in the past.

Mayor Conley said the council will hear back from Kobylarz and Chapman after the discussion with the attorney.

In other business at Monday's Zoom meeting the council:

(continued on page 13)



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TOP DOLLAR PAID FOR VEHICLES in good condition. Don't trade it, sell it to me. (734) 695-0819 02/18

HELP WANTED

CONSTRUCTION LABORER NEEDED
F/T or P/T needed immediately for local excavation & septic company. No experience necessary. Wages negotiable. Overtime, benefits, & 401K.
(734) 461-6838
kovalak@comcast.net

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800 TFN

HELP WANTED

LOOKING FOR A YOUNG/ENERGETIC ENTRY LEVEL PERSON FOR THE AFTERMARKET AUTO PARTS INDUSTRY.

Applicants must have a clean driving record, be able to read and write, and have basic math skills. Mechanical experience needed. Position is a multi-tasked job; sales/delivery/stock that may require heavy machinery and driving skills. Deliveries in a company truck. Applicants should have no visible facial tattoos, a non-smoker, and present a clean cut/professional image. Applicants will also need reliable transportation to and from work and will be drug tested, including pot. Advancement potential for the right person. Not a job for lazy people. Apply in person with Resume to Plumb Bob Automotive, 6397 Middlebelt Road, Romulus. Hours: M-F 9am-5pm, Sat. 10am-2pm. Position is approximately 45 hours per week, no Sundays or evenings. No phone calls.

HELP WANTED

City of Belleville Job Posting

The City of Belleville is seeking a new City Manager to lead our beautiful lake community located in southeast Michigan. This position will be an excellent opportunity for an energetic, hands-on administrator who has the desire and ability to be involved in every aspect of local government. The City is ready to work with its next Manager to continue its momentum with our new library, the expansion and utilization of the state's first DORA, downtown development, and a newly passed ordinance which allows marihuana in a dedicated zone within the city. The ideal candidate will be well versed in all municipal operations, labor relations, budgeting, strategic planning, and team building. The city manager is also expected to provide exemplary customer service, have strong organizational skills, be self-motivated, and be highly visible within the community. The compensation package will be negotiable and the position will be posted until filled. If you are the energetic vessel that is ready to join our fleet and move our city forward, please send your resume along with a cover letter which outlines your salary requirements to CityManager@BellevilleontheLake.com. Full benefit plan available and compensation depending on qualifications. Posted Jan. 28, 2021 Printed by the *Independent* as a public service.

Read The Newspaper On The Web!
The Belleville-Area Independent Website is Online! Visit us @ bellevilleareaindependent.com

HELP WANTED

City of Belleville

2020 Employee Wages & Cost to City

Employee Name	Total Wages	Benefits	Total Cost
City Council			
T. Fielder	1,000.00	76.50	1,076.50
K. Conley	1,500.00	114.75	1,614.75
J. Marcotte	1,000.00	76.50	1,076.50
K. Voigt	1,000.00	76.50	1,076.50
K. Bates	1,000.00	76.50	1,076.50
City Manager			
D. Kollmeyer	22,580.94	7,991.68	30,572.62
T. Schultz Kobylarz	68,546.96	5,243.84	73,790.80
Clerk/Treasurer			
S. Scharf	35,280.34	94,175.31	129,455.65
V. Chapman	12,000.00	36,891.60	48,891.60
Account Clerks			
A. Plummer	37,155.43	17,165.83	54,321.26
T. McGlynn	18,455.56	17,504.89	35,960.45
B. Hootman	36,969.15	8,921.44	45,890.59
T. Hammons	31,850.61	12,704.19	44,554.80
C. Smith	11,288.22	863.55	12,151.77
Department of Public Services			
R. Rutherford	64,055.20	20,196.92	84,252.12
S. Adams	59,867.37	32,550.29	92,417.66
S. Demond	55,306.58	49,322.03	104,628.61
N. Demond	36,207.64	8,645.68	44,853.32
C. Fielder	7,377.25	564.36	7,941.61
Police Officers			
H. Berriman	4,500.00	344.25	4,844.25
D. Robinson	49,447.50	3,782.73	53,230.23
K. Faull - Schlund	81,736.56	65,244.73	146,981.29
C. Adam	21,627.45	3,811.36	25,438.81
A. Rossignol	15,719.72	1,202.56	16,922.28
B. Devos	57,911.68	13,044.12	70,955.80
T. Schrecengost	78,819.44	63,686.30	142,505.74
M. VanDeweghe	73,714.97	50,836.00	124,550.97
J. Wickham	74,540.47	65,807.35	140,347.82
T. Trombly	26,549.22	9,821.72	36,370.94
K. Rose	49.38	3.78	53.16
S. Maher	61,908.30	16,753.30	78,661.60
Crossing Guards			
M. Talaga	-	-	-
Fire Department			
A. Benge	1,540.36	117.84	1,658.20
A. Reed	3,095.27	236.79	3,332.06
J. Reed	3,579.39	273.82	3,853.21
B. Kreher	1,290.90	98.75	1,389.65
D. Deyoung	5,011.89	383.41	5,395.30
B. Loranger	8,896.40	680.57	9,576.97
R. Landskroener	5,121.02	391.76	5,512.78
R. Russow	3,071.06	234.94	3,306.00
J. Kelly	49.96	3.82	53.78
C. McClinton	1,639.12	125.39	1,764.51
K. Rix	3,546.54	271.31	3,817.85
E. Smith	4,065.00	310.97	4,375.97
A. Zehel	1,595.52	122.06	1,717.58
C. Zweng	7,431.64	568.52	8,000.16
S. Wyputa	2,844.98	217.64	3,062.62
D. McNally	3,045.18	232.96	3,278.14
Senior Transportation Drivers			
J. Akans	1,483.25	113.47	1,596.72
R. Murray	409.75	31.35	441.10
C. Serwatka	3,222.50	246.52	3,469.02
2020 TOTAL			\$1,722,068.12
2019 TOTAL			\$1,702,577.79
Difference +			\$19,490.33

2020 employee total wages & cost to city had approximately a 1.13% increase since 2019.

*Note: The benefit number shown for Clerk Sherri Scharf is a retirement pool and not set aside for her retirement. It's for all retirees in the "supervisor" pool and she was the only active (non-union) employee drawing a salary in that category.

Marijuana

(continued from page 11)

- Approved the resolution for Exemption of Principal Residence by Reason of Poverty, as updated to comply with federal law. Assessor Jen Stamper of WCA, which has been city assessor for 10 years, said the income level was increased based on federal guidelines;

- Appointed Police Chief David Robinson as Acting City Manager beginning Feb. 14 at the rate of \$38.46 per hour. All other conditions of Chief Robinson's employment still apply;

- Heard Mayor Conley say that Kobylarz is not continuing in her position and she thanked Kobylarz for a year of hard work and effort in unprecedented times. "We wish you nothing but the best," Conley said and Kobylarz had no comment. Later, when it was time for city manager comments, Kobylarz said, "Thank you. That's all I can say." Each council member thanked Kobylarz for her work for the city. Conley said she has known Kobylarz for quite some time and she's worked for Kobylarz in the past. "You did not come into an area that was well-organized and everything in its place," she said, adding the businesses were happy with the work she did on the Bora Dora license. "Don't be a stranger. We appreciate everything you've done." She said the study sessions set up by Kobylarz have been very nice going into budget talks;

- Removed from the agenda a resolution approving the Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement of the Municipal Employees' Retirement System (MERS);

- Approved accounts payable of \$139,450.62. Kobylarz said an invoice came late for the fire department from Priority

One, for 2020 and 2019. They were sending them to an email Fire Chief Loranger said he never had. He said the total was between \$200 and \$300 and Kobylarz said it had been included in accounts payable. The company now has the right email, Loranger said; and

- Heard Kobylarz say the 31 pages presented was her last follow-up list and it was from beginning to end and would be important for the city's new city manager to have. Councilwoman Kelly Bates said that it was too long and she just wanted the outstanding matters in a list. Kobylarz replied, "I can do that for you."

Before Monday's regular council meeting, the council held a virtual study session at 6 p.m., with Police Chief Robinson giving an hour-long, detailed report on the police department. At 7 p.m., the council had a study session on the Downtown Development Authority with Coordinator Carol Thompson that lasted 15 minutes. The regular meeting began at 7:30 p.m.

COVID-19 death total in 48111 rises to 58, positive tests at 2,078

The number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code grew to 58 over the week ending Monday, Feb. 1. The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 were 2,078 on Monday, Feb. 1, up from 2,035 the previous Monday, Jan. 25.

On Monday, Feb. 1, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 1,354 positive cases, 30 deaths; City of Belleville, 369 positive cases, 21 deaths; and Sumpter Township 355 positive cases, 7 deaths.

FEEDING FAMILIES IN VAN BUREN, BELLEVILLE & SUMPTER

First United
Methodist Church



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Belleville, MI.
734-697-9288

Food distribution on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10AM – 1PM

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SENIORS, VETERANS &
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Open Monday – Friday 8am - 6pm

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 294 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week, including the following.

Sunday, Jan. 24:

0048 – assist other dept., Michigan
0054 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville / Stoneybrook
0621 – assist fire dept., Parkwood Dr.
0833 – malicious destruction of property, Sumpter
0836 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1042 – assist other dept., Oak Ln.
1133 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1234 – property damage accident, rest area
1253 – intrusion alarm, Stratford Dr.
1321 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.
1515 – suspicious person/vehicle, Union St.
1625 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1634 – abandoned auto, Riggs Rd./Renton Rd.
1757 – found property/child, Victoria St.
1812 – suspicious person/vehicle, Chandler Dr.
2000 – harassment call, Daisy Blvd.
2026 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Monday, Jan. 25:

0102 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0254 – intrusion alarm, Milton Dr.
0319 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
0443 – property check, Rawsonville Rd.
0904 – animal complaint, McBride Ave.
0912 – disorderly, Oak Blvd.
0921 – intrusion alarm, Hampton Dr.
0955 – misc. complaint, N. I-275/Tyler Rd.
1045 – motorist assist, Belleville Rd./Quirk Rd.
1240 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1324 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1359 – fraud, Michigan Ave.
1447 – fraud, Gilmore St.
1751 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1857 – civil matter, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1904 – suicidal person, Walden Blvd.
1916 – noise complaint, Berkdale Dr.
2140 – domestic, Westlake Cir.

Tuesday, Jan. 26:

0053 – domestic, Hamlin St.
0352 – property damage accident, Parkwood Dr.
0521 – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.
1012 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.
1029 – malicious destruction of property, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1203 – breaking & entering, Vine St.
1213 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
1315 – vehicle lockout, Tyler Rd.
1317 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1334 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
1346 – larceny from auto, Parkwood Dr.
1348 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1402 – family trouble, Kahla Dr.
1445 – welfare check, Jackson St.
1448 – threat, E. Archwood Dr.
1523 – suspicious person/vehicle, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.

1643 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Van Born Rd./Belleville Rd.
1652 – disorderly, Rawsonville Rd.
1721 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1825 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./Riggs Rd.
1935 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
2000 – road hazard, Ecorse/Morton Taylor Rd.
2113 – threat, Meadows Cir.

Wednesday, Jan. 27:

0059 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0228 – threat, Belleville Rd.
0519 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0734 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0744 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
0829 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0915 – property damage accident, Jackson/Hayes
1013 – misc. complaint, Wildbrook Dr.
1025 – assist other dept., Westlake Cir.
1129 – welfare check, E. Huron River Dr.
1247 – fight, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1315 – domestic, Pebblebrook Dr.
1334 – intrusion alarm, Oak Ln.
1402 – welfare check, S. Bellridge Dr.
1403 – misc. complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1528 – larceny from auto, Parkwood Dr.
1606 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. /

Belleville Rd.

1738 – neighbor trouble, Stamford Rd.
1741 – assist fire dept., Denton Rd.
1744 – family trouble, Kahla Dr.
1925 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2032 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
2157 – assist other dept., Rawsonville/Martz
2343 – property check, Belleville Rd.
Thursday, Jan. 28:
0046 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0046 – animal complaint, Hull Rd.
0104 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0207 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0457 – welfare check, Greenbriar Dr.
0841 – property damage accident, Dellor St./Mott
0936 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0941 – civil matter, Haggerty Rd.
1001 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1004 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.

1034 – intrusion alarm, Jackson St.
1044 – ordinance violation, Robson Rd.
1104 – assault & battery, Parkwood Dr.
1123 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1249 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./S. I-94 Service
1335 – animal complaint, Parkwood
1403 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1426 – lost property/child, Belleville Rd.
1428 – assist other dept., Belle Pointe Dr.
1433 – animal complaint, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1512 – welfare check, E. Adams
1542 – sexual assault, Crowley Ave.
1603 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
1607 – suspicious person/vehicle, Walden Blvd.
1703 – harassment call, Parkside Dr.
1813 – personal injury accident, Bemis Rd.
1834 – suspicious activity report, Haggerty Rd.
1941 – animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2034 – harassment call, Daisy Blvd.

Friday, Jan. 29:

0128 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0305 – property check, Belleville Rd.
0340 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0825 – family trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1044 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1217 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
1442 – domestic, Meadows Cir.
1601 – welfare check, Bayshore Dr.
1629 – trespassing, Kirkridge
1656 – road hazard, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.
1720 – intrusion alarm, Revere Dr.
1835 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1908 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
1929 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.
2019 – harassment call, Quirk Rd.
2107 – assist fire dept., Bog Rd.
2206 – family trouble, Van Buren St.
2221 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
2312 – trespassing, E. Huron River Dr.
2356 – intrusion alarm, Revere Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 30:

0028 – parking complaint, Patty Ln.
0133 – suicidal person, Parkwood Dr.
0324 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood
0337 – family trouble, N. Woodbury Dr.
0436 – larceny from auto, Parkwood Dr.
0559 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0635 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0745 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0904 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
0958 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1007 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
1031 – threat, N. Bellridge Dr.
1126 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
1156 – road hazard, Ecorse
1217 – road hazard, Haggerty Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1231 – harassment call, Daisy Blvd.
1257 – welfare check, Rolan Meadows Dr.
1311 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
1322 – abandoned auto, Stamford Dr.
1502 – welfare check, Madison Dr.
1528 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1557 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1800 – fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1814 – motorist assist, Tyler Rd./Belleville Rd.
2207 – domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2238 – domestic, Harbour Club
2256 – suicidal person, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on this week's log are 123 traffic stops, 41 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 24:

0019 – traffic stop, Main St./Second St.
0905 – welfare check, Santa Clara St.
1430 – misc. complaint, Main St.
2103 – traffic stop, Loza Ln./E. Huron River Dr.
2304 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty

Monday, Jan. 25:

0054 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon
0138 – traffic stop, Main St.
1339 – malicious destruction of property, N. Aberdeen Ct.
1820 – abandoned auto, Sumpter Rd.
1930 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 26:

0011 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd.
0243 – traffic stop, Bell Plaza
0403 – noise complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
2217 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr. / S. Edgemont Ave.

Wednesday, Jan. 27:

0118 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0617 – intrusion alarm, Main St.
0642 – intrusion alarm, Main St.

Thursday, Jan. 28:

0857 – vehicle lock out, S. Liberty St.
1445 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
1537 – harassment call, Main St.

Friday, Jan. 29:

0015 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
0815 – traffic stop, Main St./Fourth St.
0825 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
1115 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr. / N. Edgemont Ave.
1437 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1534 – traffic offense, Main St.
2138 – shooting, Bay Pointe Dr.

Saturday, Jan. 30:

0042 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Main St.
1340 – civil matter, E. Huron River Dr.
1601 – noise complaint, Loza Ln.
2004 – welfare check, South St.

There were 15 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Jan. 24:

1436 – follow-up investigation, Wayside Dr.
1543 – property damage accident, Willis/Elwell
1717 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1853 – shots fired, 13000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1908 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willis Rd.
1943 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2026 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Monday, Jan. 25:

0301 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
0526 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0624 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0718 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0725 – traffic stop, Willis Rd./California St.
0907 – misc. detail, out of township
1045 – assist other agency, New Mexico St.
1214 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Executive Dr.
1256 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1401 – fire dept. assist, Arizona St.
1506 – motorist assist, Sumpter Rd./Willow Rd.
1513 – traffic stop, Bemis Rd./Elwell Rd.
1629 – fire dept. assist, Greenmeadow Dr.
1844 – follow-up investigation, Wayside Dr.
1921 – 911 hang up, Washington St.
1955 – 911 hang up, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2024 – suspicious person, 9300 bl. Rawsonville
2044 – follow-up investigation, Carriage Ln.
2241 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
2313 – traffic stop, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.

Tuesday, Jan. 26:

0310 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0702 – suspicious person, Third St.
1118 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1616 – suspicious person, 25000 bl. Clark Rd.
1620 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1801 – missing person, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1837 – citizen assist, Edgewood Dr.
1843 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
2040 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Arkona Rd.

2122 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, Jan. 27:

0332 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.
0649 – traffic stop, Willow Rd./Elwell Rd.
0812 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1016 – traffic stop, Sherwood Rd./Willis Rd.
1139 – civil matter, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
1326 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
1403 – welfare check, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.
1732 – suspicious circumstances, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1847 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1940 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2126 – property damage accident, Willis Rd./Clark

Thursday, Jan. 28:

0035 – citizen assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0127 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0224 – harassment complaint, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

0510 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.

1050 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Ave.

1640 – welfare check, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1830 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1845 – 911 hang up, 18000 bl. Boyd Dr.

2016 – traffic complaint, Judd Rd./Karr Rd.

Friday, Jan. 29:

0324 – recovered UDAA, Karr Rd./Arkona Rd.
0854 – misc. detail, out of township
1331 – traffic stop, Martinsville Rd./Bemis Rd.
1720 – misc. detail, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Jan. 30:

0807 – harassment complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos
1330 – 911 hang up, 47000 bl. Executive Dr.
1834 – suspicious circumstances, 46000 bl. Claxton Dr.

1844 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.

2228 – suspicious person, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

2300 – missing person, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Also on this week's log were 83 patrol checks. There were six traffic stops.

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.





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Belleville DDA Buy It In Belleville

VBT

(continued from page 1)

office one day, but that was because the township hall was closed for two weeks for the holidays.

"We don't have to close township hall down ... We can do the same rotation as we do now," Clerk Wright said.

"I can do that. That's not a problem," McNamara said.

"We need to be leading by example," Wright said of coronavirus safety, adding they still need screeners at the door. "The little old lady at the door would still be let in," he said.

Trustee Don Boynton asked if the motion on the floor needed to be changed for "exceptions."

"We'll make exceptions, if needed," said Clerk Wright.

"I'm going to vote no anyway," McNamara said.

"Government has to be accessible," said Trustee Sherry Frazier. "It has to be. It's the people's government. They have to have access to the people in power."

"I don't think we're denying access to government," said Trustee Martin. "We're in a pandemic. This is a short-term stop."

Martin said he would change the motion adding, "... exceptions can be made on a per-case basis."

"We have a lot of people bringing cash," said Treasurer Sherry Budd. "If somebody comes to the door, they should be let in." She said she didn't know how her office was going to be able to handle making appointments and serving people at the counter, since there are only two people on a shift.

"A lot carry cash," Treasurer Budd said, adding that people had put cash in the drop box and that isn't safe.

Trustee Miller said Canton is open one day a week for cash.

"Now the governor is opening up more," Budd pointed out. "We've been lenient for a long time and now this... They will be angry."

Trustee Boynton replied: "It's a pandemic ... We have to work it out the best we can ... Some people will be angry. Some will be happy ... We have to look over the health, safety, and good order of the public."

Trustee Martin asked if they should keep the treasurer's office open until Feb. 14

when taxes are due.

Wright said the big overload on that Monday was because they were closed two weeks. Eighty percent of that traffic was to the treasurer's office.

"Isn't that counterproductive?" asked Trustee Miller concerning exceptions.

"No, if they want to pay their tax bill we should let them in," Wright said.

Budd said she just got a text that said actually the taxes are due March 1.

Martin restated his motion adding, "... except for as-case basis."

The vote was taken and McNamara voted no, as promised. He added, however, "I can figure out a way to make this one work."

In other business at the two-hour-and-18-minute meeting, the board:

- Heard Clerk Wright give a commemoration of Martin Luther King's life and work and then asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dr. King;

- Approved the supervisor's reappointment of Tammy Wall, Kimberly Nofz, Charles Coleman, Daniel Belanger, Denis Willoughby, and Tod O'Neill, along with student representatives Morgan Stuckey and Kennedy Plummer to the Recreation Committee with terms to expire Feb. 1, 2022; and

- Approved the South Huron Valley Utility Authority Rules and Regulations Amendment.

Tree cutting leads to wires falling, fires, power outages in area

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At about 2 p.m. on Monday, Davey's Tree Service was cutting tree limbs for DTE in an area along Martinsville Road between the railroad track and E. Huron River Drive, when a limb fell on two primary lines.

Van Buren Township Fire Chief David McNally said that this over energized the line and overheated a fuse in a house, causing a fire.

And this over-energized downed line went down the road to the Savage and Martinsville corner where it fell on some brush, parked cars, and debris and set a house on fire.

Chief McNally said it was 20 to 25 minutes before DTE could turn off the electricity so they couldn't use water on the fire. He said the two men cutting trees were in the tree when the primary lines fell and couldn't come down until the power was off so they waited in the tree.

No one was injured in the incident, he said. The VBT Fire Department also was able to handle a medical run during this time.

Chief McNally said DTE was checking houses along Martinsville to see if there was other damage.

Electrical service was interrupted to parts of the city of Belleville, said Belleville Police Chief David Robinson and a Nixle alert was sent out. Service was restored at about 6 p.m.

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